

## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE June 16, 1988FULL NAME Jack K. Roberts SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
(No initials if you can possibly get full name)ADDRESS [REDACTED]CITY Liberty STATE MO ZIP CODE 64068DATE OF BIRTH approx 1934 (This is important and should be exact)APPROXIMATE AGE 54 (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

RELIGION \_\_\_\_\_ NATIONALITY \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION Resigned as Clay County Circuit Court Clerk March 16, 1988

EDUCATION \_\_\_\_\_

WEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ HEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ RACE whiteCOLOR OF HAIR Gray COLOR OF EYES \_\_\_\_\_

OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OR INTERESTS \_\_\_\_\_

MARRIED OR SINGLE Married CHILDREN 2NAME OF SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number, ages, and names, if possible)SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

<u>UNIT #</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>DATE REGISTERED</u>	<u>DATE RESIGNED</u>
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see attached

SPECIAL RECOGNITION see attachee

## SUSPENDED OR DENIED REGISTRATION FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

Alleged misconduct with young males

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF REGISTRATION AND LIST ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACTS, NOT RUMOR, CONJECTURE OR SPECULATION):

see attached newspaper clippings

CONFIDENTIAL

JUN 23 1988

F. STARON

RS-509

4/14/83-nah

NOTED

AUG 05 '88

JOSEPH L. ANGLIM

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Council Heart of America Council

CONF028181



Heart of America Council, Boy Scouts of America

Two Gateway Center • 400 State Avenue • Kansas City, Kansas 66101-2483 • 913/321-5151

February 16, 1989

CONFIDENTIAL

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service  
National Office  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079


Dear Paul:

Re: Jack Roberts

Attached is photocopy of newspaper article which appeared in the  
Kansas City Times on February 11th.

Please add this to your file on above person.

Sincerely,

  
Jere B. Ratcliffe  
Scout Executive

JR 120

Enclosure

# Sex crime admitted to judge

## Ex-circuit clerk pleads guilty

By Tom Miller  
Of the Mid-America Staff

JEFFERSON CITY — Jack Roberts, former Clay County circuit clerk, pleaded guilty here Friday to a felony charge of deviant sexual conduct.

Roberts, 55, had been charged with one felony and two misdemeanor sex charges, all involving young boys. Under an agreement reached between prosecutors and his attorneys, Roberts pleaded guilty to the felony charge, and the two misdemeanor charges were dropped.

Sentencing by Cole County Circuit Judge Byron Kinder will follow a pre-sentence investigation. Roberts could be sentenced to one to seven years in prison and be fined up to \$5,000.

Roberts was circuit clerk from March 1978 to March 1988, before resigning amid an investigation into the allegations of sexual misconduct.

After his resignation, Clay County Prosecutor Michael Reardon did not charge Roberts with the crimes, but put him in a diversion program for sexual offenders.

Under the terms of the diversion program, Roberts was required to stay away from boys under age 18.

Later, however, two witnesses said they saw Roberts sitting near a group of Boy Scouts at a Royals game. Roberts is a former scoutmaster.

After those reports, Roberts' probation was revoked, and a Clay County grand jury took up the investigation.

He was indicted on the three counts by a Clay County grand jury in August 1988. The incidents cited by the grand jury took place late in 1987 and early 1988, according to the indictment.

Also, after his resignation, state auditors criticized several actions taken by Roberts while he was circuit clerk, including taking money from county funds to buy bakery goods, meat and tableware and six poinsettias. More than \$90,000 was also apparently spent without proper bids being taken, auditors said.

Roberts appeared with his attorney, Michael J. Svetlic, and indicated he understood the arrangements of the plea bargain and admitted his guilt on the felony count, which involved a 14-year-old boy.

August 8, 1988

Mr. Jere B. Ratcliffe  
Scout Executive  
Heart of America Council, No. 307

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Jack Roberts

Dear Jere:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

eko

cc: North Central Region

READY TO FILE  
AUG 08 1988  
ERIN ORILEY

CONF028184



Heart of America Council, Boy Scouts of America

Two Gateway Center • 400 State Avenue • Kansas City, Kansas 66101-2483 • 913/321-5151

June 17, 1988

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service  
National Office  
Boy Scouts of America

Re: Jack Roberts


Dear Paul:

In reply to your letter of June 8, 1988, with regard to the above individual, we are enclosing photocopies of several newspaper articles together with Confidential Record Sheet, copy of Memorandum from Warren Wenner and copy of Mr. Roberts' camp staff assignments at Bartle Scout Reservation.

This brings you up to date as far as our knowledge of this matter is concerned.

If there are further developments, we will advise you.

Sincerely,

  
Jere B. Ratcliffe  
Scout Executive

JBR/ak  
Enclosures

MARCH 11, 1988

MEMO

TO: Jere B. Ratcliffe

FROM: Warren Wenner

Re: Jack Roberts

Served on staff at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation the following years:

1986 - Lone Star - Commissioner....Camp Director, Warren Wenner  
1985 - Lone Star - Commissioner....Camp Director, Warren Wenner  
1984 - Lone Star - Campsite Comm...Camp Director, Frank Reigelman  
1983 - Lone Star - Campsite Comm...Camp Director, Lloyd Hasty

CONF028186

## M E M O R A N D U M

TO: JERE RATCLIFFE, SCOUT EXECUTIVE  
FROM: WARREN WENNER, PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
SUBJECT: SEXUAL ABUSE CASE

## I. THE INCIDENT

On January 8, 1988, I received a phone call about a Boy Scout from Troop 373 (Liberty, Missouri) who stated a boy been sexually abused by a Scout Leader in 1982. This allegedly happened on a campout at Earnest Shepherd Memorial Youth center in Liberty, Missouri in the boy's tent. The boy, [REDACTED], is now 18 years of age and out of Troop 373.

I was also later informed by another person this man had abused a neighbor and other cases were under investigation.

The man has not been arrested, however, his investigation has been reviewed by a judge in Clay County. The Liberty City Police Department is investigating the man. The Clay County Juvenile Justice Office is aware of at least two allegeded abuse cases by Jack Roberts.

## - II. JACK ROBERTS' BACKGROUND

The leaders name is Jack Roberts of [REDACTED] Missouri, 64068. He is in his 50's and has a full gray beard. Jack holds the Silver Beaver Award and Award of Merit. He serves on Camp Staff at H. Roe Bartle as a Campsite Commissioner. He is currently registered with the District Committee of North Star. He also has been a leader in the following troops in Liberty, Missouri:

- Troop 372, Methodist Church, Liberty
- Troop 374, First Presbyterian Church, Liberty
- Troop 320, Liberty Christian Church
- Troop 373, City of Liberty.

He is a Merit Badge Counselor. Currently Jack is the Clay County Circuit Clerk. He is a Board Member of Earnest Shepherd Memorial Youth Center.

WW/kat  
01/14/88  
cc: Earl Burum, Assistant Scout Executive



## Clay Official Resigns, Sexual Misconduct Alleged

Clay County Circuit Clerk Jack Roberts resigned from office after being accused of sexual misconduct with teenage boys. Prosecuting Attorney Mike Reardon stated Roberts, 54, had issued a statement of wrongdoing, resigned from office and would be out on two-year probation after extensive psychiatric evaluation as part of a deferred prosecution program.

According to Reardon, Roberts, Circuit Clerk since 1978, successfully completes his probation. Roberts is facing now charges which will be filed in the same thing as a criminal offense. This program, however, is not supervised by any court. Controversy about use of the deferred prosecution developed last Sunday, however, when County Sheriff Jack Corum said that Roberts' punishment was too lenient.

"I feel Jack Roberts is getting preferential treatment," said Corum. "A normal procedure would be to file a complaint, issue a warrant, set bond and a court date. Corum said the deferred prosecution was inappropriate in this case."

"Deferred prosecution has not been a standard procedure that I know of. In family cases involving incest they do this, but this is not that type of case."

Reardon stated Monday that deferred prosecution was best for both the people of Clay County and the victims.

"In this case the victims did not come forward; they were sought

out," said Reardon, who believes it is in the best interest of victims to keep their names confidential.

Reardon also stated he did not want to put the county in the position of having an accused sex offender holding office during an investigation and trial.

"He (Mr. Roberts) is not a friend of mine. We have not socialized. Our only contact is at the courthouse," said Reardon. "This man is a first offender. The charges against him were misdemeanors."

Reardon stated what Roberts is facing now is the same thing as a criminal offense. This program, however, is not supervised by any court. Controversy about use of the deferred prosecution developed last Sunday, however, when County Sheriff Jack Corum said that Roberts' punishment was too lenient.

"The sheriff's job is to catch them. My job is to decide what to do with them," concluded Reardon. "I hope all this is not politically motivated."

Both Reardon and Corum claim to have asked for a grand jury investigation. Reardon reported he had asked Judge McFarland of the Circuit Court for an investigation on the Wednesday before Robert's arrest. Corum stated he had asked Circuit Court Judge Pratt for a grand jury investigation after learning Roberts had been placed on deferred prosecution.

According to Sheriff Corum, Roberts had been under investigation since early December.

"We began an investigation and talked with victims which

resulted in a number of statements," says Sheriff Corum. "At that point we requested a criminal warrant for deviant sexual assault."

According to Reardon the evidence collected by Corum was enough to have Roberts arrested and brought in last Thursday. He was then released in custody of his lawyer, Mike Svetlic. After several more hours of negotiation Roberts' lawyer agreed to the terms of deferred prosecution. Reardon stated Roberts is now in a mental institution.

Reardon said Jack Roberts for many years. "I said Corum. We have not been able

to have a victim come forward before now."

Officials have requested the name of the victim be withheld so as not to interfere with their investigation. The identity has been confirmed. Officials confirmed Monday that the victim coming forward with the allegations is a 28-year-old Liberty male, who claims Roberts had sexually abused him 13 years ago. The victim stated that he was at

that time a 15 year old and working for Mr. Roberts at the court house. Interviewed Monday, he claimed Roberts had shown him pornographic material, offered him alcohol and then sexually abused him.

"One day he brought a porno magazine to work. We looked at it while I was on a break, and then he brought some wine and I got drunk," he said.

When asked why he told authorities about his relationship with Roberts, "I don't know. I wanted revenge all this time. I finally got it, and I don't feel any better."

"I feel degraded. I guess I know my name is ruined in this town. I

hope it never happens to anybody else. Maybe it will make other boys come forward before it's too late. I would have told them if they hadn't asked me. This is just my personal opinion. This boy has molested no other boys. According to Corum, the victim's accusation had been verified and had led them to obtain information from at least three other males."

Deputy Circuit Clerk Janice Groom has been appointed temporary Clerk by Circuit Court Presiding Judge Stephen R. Pratt until an interim director can be selected by Governor Ashcroft.

Board of Election attorney Doug Noland stated that Robert's position which runs to Jan. 1 would most likely be filled in the November election. Filing for the Primary election in August will begin March 29. Both the Democratic and Republican central committees will be submitting names to Governor Ashcroft for an appointment to the position.

Roberts owned an insurance and real estate company before joining the county clerk's office in 1966. He was appointed Clay County Circuit Clerk in 1978 to replace Edward J. Wnuk, who died that month.



Jack K. Roberts owned an insurance and real estate company before joining the county clerk's office in 1966. He was appointed Clay County Circuit Clerk in 1978 to replace Edward J. Wnuk, who died that month. New allegations have arisen that trust handled may have been improperly used.



## Grand jury to review Roberts' case

A Clay County grand jury is expected to meet today to probe allegations of sexual misconduct by former Clay County Circuit Court Judge Stephen Pratt.

Pratt, 54, resigned his post Friday in a letter to Circuit Judge Stephen Pratt following Roberts' arrest by sheriff's deputies Thursday afternoon at the Clay County Courthouse. Roberts had been circuit clerk since 1978. His resignation becomes effective today.

Sheriff Jack Corum asked for the grand jury after learning that Pratt, attorney Michael Reardon had approved a request by Roberts' attorney, Michael Svetlic, for Roberts to enter a diversion program to avoid prosecution. Judge Pratt agreed Friday to convene the grand jury.

Corum could not be reached for comment Monday morning, but according to published reports, the sheriff's department's investigation centered on alleged homosexual conduct by Roberts involving juveniles. Roberts has been involved in the Boy Scouts in Liberty.

The investigation began two and one-half months ago after a Clay County Jail inmate apparently acquainted with Roberts, made a statement to sheriff's detectives. As a result of the tip, authorities obtained information from four other males.

Reardon has been quoted as saying it is not unusual for sex offenders to be placed in a diversion program if they ask for it before charges are filed. However, Corum has said there is sufficient

evidence to warrant criminal trial. He contends Roberts is being given preferential treatment because he was a county official.

Under a signed agreement, contingent on Roberts' resignation, he would be placed in a diversion program for up to two years. If he successfully completes the program, no charges would be filed. The program is similar to probation and includes counseling and supervision by Missouri probation authorities.

The office's chief deputy clerk will take over Roberts' duties until Gov. John Ashcroft appoints an interim circuit clerk. An election for the remainder of Roberts' term, which runs until 1990, will be held in November.

Calls made by this newspaper to the prosecuting attorney, sheriff and the County Commission were not returned Monday morning.

## Snake Saturday winners

The following organizations were winners in the Snake Saturday parade Saturday:

Best of Parade - N.K.C. Pro Bowl; Most Unique City - Engry - City of NKC; first place float - Eisenberg Company; first place commercial entry - Budweiser/NKC Beverage; First place marching unit - Westport Junior

### Southern Clay News

ation

12... 100% U.S. Mail Delivery... March 16, 1988

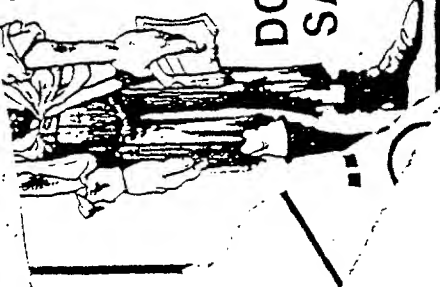
- 1987 Taurus GL V6, auto., air, PW, P/Seal, P/Locks, stereo... \$8,950
- 1987 Celebrity Euro Sport 4 dr., tilt, cruise... \$9,950
- 1987 Olds Calais 2 dr., black, V6, tilt, cruise, stereo... \$7,950
- 1987 Olds Calais 2 dr., black, V6, tilt, cruise, stereo... \$8,500

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4 Tuesday, March 15, 1988

# Editorial/Co

## Our View...

### Never ending tragedy

The sad case of Jack Roberts has been a difficult one to report.

It is difficult, not because we knew Jack Roberts, but because we didn't really know him. We only knew the side of him he projected to the public. The other side of Jack Roberts was evil and manipulating, as today's front-page exclusive interview with one of his victims reveals.

Nobody will ever know whether Jack Roberts' crime 13 years ago, his molestation of Rich Vanzant, had anything at all to do with Vanzant's alleged November kidnapping and molesting of a 13-year-old Liberty High School girl.

But it seems possible that it did have something to do with it. And that is the saddest commentary.

Jack Roberts' crimes, whether he is punished for them or not, will never be erased. The scars he has left behind, on the possible hundreds of children and young adults he molested, will last much longer than even Roberts.

How many others will feel the effects of his crimes, it is impossible to say.

But it is fair to say that the Jack Roberts incident is not over. It never will be. Not as long as his victims, and their victims, live.

Roberts is now getting counseling, at the expense of the taxpayers, but his victims are left to fend for themselves - to try to work out on their own why what happened to them happened.

Roberts' crime, in some minds, was no less heinous than Vanzant's. But Roberts was much better at it. He didn't need a gun. He used his wits to seduce his victims. And because there was no "violence," Roberts gets a slap on the hand.

Vanzant won't. And he shouldn't. And neither should Roberts.

June 8, 1988

Mr. Jere B. Ratcliffe  
Scout Executive  
Heart of America Council, No. 307

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Jack Roberts

Dear Jere:

This is a follow up to our previous communication concerning the above named individual. We still do not have a Confidential Record Sheet, and I would like to have one completed. We are enclosing one with this letter for your use. We would also like a copy of an application with Mr. Roberts' signature as this aids in the identification process.

If any further action or newspaper clippings have come to your attention, these would help to substantiate refusal of an application anywhere in the country.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

mdg

Enclosure

cc: North Central Region

READY TO FILE

JUN 10 1988

ERIN O'RILEY

CONF028191



Heart of America Council, Boy Scouts of America

Two Gateway Center • 400 State Avenue • Kansas City, Kansas 66101-2483 • 913/321-5151

March 14, 1988

Mr. Paul Ernst  
Sum 108  
National Council, BSA  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079

Dear Paul:

Enclosed is article which appeared in yesterday's Kansas City Star regarding Jack Roberts.

Please add this to your file regarding this man.

Sincerely,

Jere B. Ratcliffe

ak

Enclosure

March 1978 and later ran successfully for the post. Before that, he had served 12 years as chief deputy clerk.

Reardon said Saturday that the investigation began about 2½ months ago through information from a Clay County Jail inmate. The inmate, who apparently was acquainted with Roberts, is a Liberty man charged with kidnapping, attempted rape, armed criminal action and four counts of sodomy in a case involving a Liberty girl.

Officials said they later obtained information from four other males as a result of that tip. Authorities said Roberts gave a statement about the cases under investigation.

Reardon declined comment about what Roberts said, but he said "for a diversion program, we require an admission" of wrongdoing.

Pratt said Saturday that he requested an auditor from the state court administrator's office to examine records in Roberts' office. But Pratt said "nothing of any significance" was found during the examination Friday.

Corum said Saturday that authorities found a loaded .22-caliber revolver in Roberts' desk. He said Roberts gave the department permission to take the gun.

Clay County officials changed locks on four doors in the circuit clerk's office and computer room Friday, the day Roberts' resignation letter was submitted, said Clay County Administrator Walt Van Asselt.

Van Asselt said the actions were "normal security precautions" to protect data on the computer system.

## Clerk

continued from pg. 25A

Clay County Circuit Judge Stephen Pratt agreed Friday to convene the grand jury Wednesday at Corum's request. County judges selected names Friday for the grand jury, and deputies were to serve summonses, authorities said.

Corum said it was the first time since he was elected in 1976 that he had called for a grand jury.

The unusual nature of Corum's action was reflected by Homer Foote Jr., sheriff of Cass County, who said, "I've never heard of such a thing."

He and Tom Thomas, Platte County sheriff, said they knew of no other case in which a sheriff had called a grand jury without working through the prosecutor's office.

Reardon declined comment Saturday on Corum's call for the grand jury, although he briefly discussed other aspects of Roberts' circumstances.

Roberts, 54, the circuit clerk since March 1973, submitted his resignation less than 24 hours after his arrest. He was unavailable for comment Saturday. Officials said he had already begun the counseling program.

Roberts' letter said the effective date of his resignation was March 16.

Pratt said Saturday he understood that "one of the reasons the prosecutor and defense attorney made the deal was so he (Roberts) could get his retirement. The reason he made it Wednesday was so he could get his 10 years in."

Roberts' attorney, Michael J. Svetlic, declined comment Saturday. Reardon said Saturday, "I don't know what his retirement situation is."

Clay County Eastern Commissioner Bill Kersten said Saturday that all three commissioners had discussed the case after learning about it Thursday.

"There were questions about the lack of arraignment by the prosecuting attorney," Kersten said. "We wanted to know the reasoning for his position."

## Grand jury to probe clerk's case

By Greg Kuhl

staff writer

Clay County Sheriff Jack Corum is getting preferential treatment after an arrest in a sexual misconduct case, has taken the unusual step of calling a grand jury.

A county grand jury typically is convened by a circuit court judge at the request of a county prosecutor. In this case, however, Corum went to the Circuit Court and asked for the inquiry which was approved.

Corum opposes the decision by Clay County Prosecutor Michael Reardon to allow Clay County Circuit Clerk Jack I. Roberts to enter into a diversion program.

Roberts was arrested Thursday night after a sheriff's investigation into alleged homosexual conduct with juveniles.

He resigned, effective Wednesday and asked to enter a diversion program and undergo counseling. If he completes the up-to-two-year program successfully, he would not be charged.

"He's getting preferential treatment," Corum said, contending Saturday that sufficient evidence exists for Roberts to face criminal charges in court. Corum also said he wants the grand jury to probe accounts in the circuit clerk's office.



Heart of America Council, Boy Scouts of America

Two Gateway Center • 400 State Avenue • Kansas City, Kansas 66101-2483 • 913/321-5151

March 11, 1988

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Paul Ernst  
Director of Registration  
Sum 108  
National Council, BSA  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079

Dear Paul:

Attached is copy of my correspondence to Mr. Jack Roberts informing him of his suspension from membership in the Boy Scouts of America. He was arrested and charged March 11, 1988, on at least two counts of sexual abuse of a minor.

We will send additional information as it is available.

Sincerely,

  
Jere B. Ratcliffe  
Scout Executive

307 - D3640 - ID # 066436

B/cy 1/34

JBR/ak

Enclosure

P.S. He was registered in Troop 373.

*Added to CF file  
Not deleted  
from reg. pending  
further word  
from CO  
3/14/89  
cm*



Heart of America Council, Boy Scouts of America

Two Gateway Center • 400 State Avenue • Kansas City, Kansas 66101-2483 • 913/321-5151

March 11, 1988

Mr. Jack Roberts

Liberty, Mo. 64068

Dear Mr. Roberts:

After careful review, we have decided that your registration with the Boy Scouts of America should be suspended. We are therefore compelled to request that you sever any relations you may have with the Boy Scouts of America. A refund of your registration fee is enclosed.

You should understand the BSA membership registration is a privilege and is not automatically granted to everyone who applies. We reserve the right to suspend registration whenever there is a concern that an individual may not measure up to the high standards of membership the BSA seeks to provide for American youth.

If you wish to have this decision reviewed, please write to me within 60 days of the date of this letter, explaining your version of the facts supporting your claim that your registration as a BSA member should be granted or reinstated.

Sincerely yours,

  
Jere B. Ratcliffe  
Scout Executive

JBR/kat  
Enc.